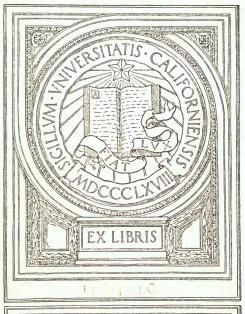
The Rubaiyat of BRIDGE

CAROLYN WELLS









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Sofel n Wooddrck

The Rubaiyat of BRIDGE

by CAROLYN WELLS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY MAY WILSON PRESTON



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Now the new Rubber rousing

[new Desires,
The Thoughtful Soul to Doub=
[ling Hearts aspires.

=When the Red Hand of
[Dummy is laid down,
And even Hope of the Odd
[Trick expires!



maywism Preston

Ah, make the Most of what

[We yet may Take,
Before we lose the Lead, and

[let Them make

=Trick after Trick! While

[we throw down High Cards,
Sans Lead, sans Score, sans

[Honor, and sans Stake!



A Book of Bridge Rules un=

[derneath the Bough,
A Score Card, Two new Packs
[of Cards, and Thou

=With Two Good Players sit=

[ting opposite,
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise
[enow!



The Card no Question makes

[of ayes or noes,
But High or Low, as suits the

[Player shows;

=But he who Stands Beside

[you, Looking On,—

He knows about it all! He

[Knows!! He Knows!!!



May wison Preston o

I sometimes think there's never

[such Tirade
As where some Bridge Game
[has been badly Played.

=When Some One thinks you
[should have made no Trump,
And you have thriftily declared
[a Spade!



Myself, when Young, did ea=

[gerly Frequent
Bridge Tournaments, and heard

[Great Argument

=About this Point and That.

[Yet, after all,

Came out no Better Player

[than I went.



For I remember stopping by

[the Way

To watch Four Celebrated

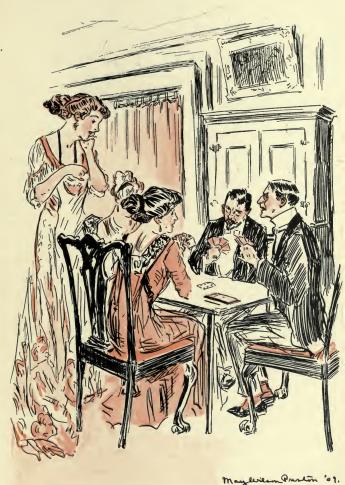
[Champions play.

=They Differed on the Dis=

[card, Make, and Lead.

Whatever One Said, — Said

[The Others, "Nay!"



Why, if a Soul can fling the

[Rules aside,

And let his Card=Sense be his

[Only Guide,

=Were't not a Shame, were't

[not a Shame for him

By Street and Elwell tamely

[to abide?



And if the Card you hope=

[fully Finesse
Capture the Trick,—your Part=

[ner Smiles! Oh yes!

=And you smile Broadly! But,

[if it be Caught
By the Fourth Hand,—your

[Smiles are somewhat Less!



But if in Vain down on the

[Stubborn Score
You gaze; and make it No

[Trumps, just once more,—

=With Strength in Every Suit,

[but with No Ace,—
How then,—when Dummy

[calmly Lays down Four!



To Them the Heart Convention

[did I show,

And with Mine Own Hand

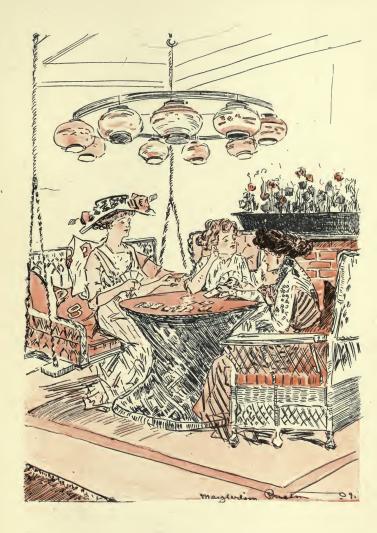
[tried to make it go.

=But this is all the Wisdom

[that I reaped,—

"With more than Three Hearts,

[always lead the Low!"



For, Trump or No = Trump,

[though with all the Rules,

Of different Masters and of

[different Schools,

=I've played with Players of

[all Sorts,—but I

Have never beaten anything,—

[but Fools!

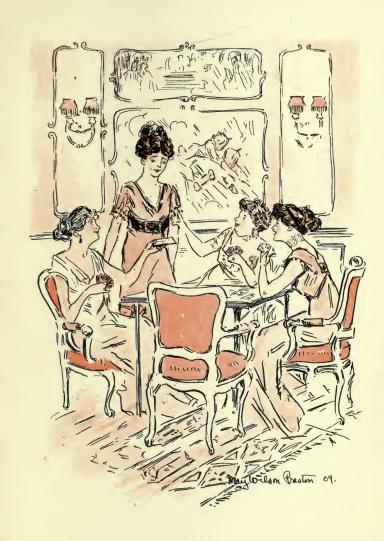


Indeed, indeed—to Quit It oft
[Before

I swore,—but did I mean it [when I swore?

=And then,—and then came [Three, and, Cards in Hand, I Joined them, and they made [me keep the Score!





Alas, how Subtle Bridge al= [luring Woos!

And robs me of my Nightly [Beauty=Snooze.

=I often Wonder what Bridge [Players gain

One=half so Precious as the [Sleep they Lose.





Oh, Threats of Loss, and
[Hopes of Golden Store,
One thing in Bridge is Cer=
[tain,—'tis not Lore!

=One thing is Certain, and
[the Rest is Chance:
The Hand that holds the
[Cards will win the Score!



The Rubáiyát of BRIDGE

Some for the Gain of Penny
[Points, and Some
Sigh for the Lovely Prizes yet
[to come.

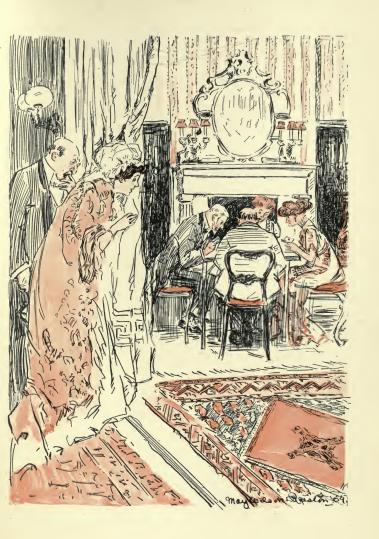
=Oh, take the Prize and let [the Pennies go,

Nor heed the winning of a [Paltry Sum.



The Rubáiyát of BRIDGE

When You and I our Last
[Bridge Game have played,
The Games will go right on
[by Those who've Stayed,
=Who of Our Coming and
[Departure heed
As the Heart Ace should heed
[a little Spade.



The Rubáiyát of BRIDGE

We are no other than a Mov=

[ing Row
Of Magic Dummy Hands that

[Come and Go.

=Played to the Last Trump

[by the Hand of Fate,
By whom our Hearts are

[Shuffled To and Fro.









